REMARKS

Claims 1-6 are the only active claims pending in this application. The foregoing separate sheets marked as "Listing of Claims" shows all the claims in the application, each with an indication at its first line showing the claim's current status.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0039116 ("Hashimoto"). Office Action at pp. 2-4.

The Office Action also rejects claims 2, 4 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hashimoto combined with the Office Action's Official Notice position as to what is known in the art. Office Action at pp. 4-5.

Applicant respectfully traverses all of the rejections.

Applicant respectfully submits that Hashimoto does not disclose the limitations and arrangements defined by Applicant's base claims 1 and 5, and therefore cannot anticipate either of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

Applicant further submits that the knowledge identified by the Official Notice does not embody the elements of base claims 1 and 5 that Hashimoto lacks, and that such knowledge, alone or combined with Hashimoto, evidences nothing showing obviousness to one of ordinary skill in the art of modifying Hashimoto to meet claims 1 or 5.

Applicant responds to the rejections referring to claims 1 and 5 as amended above for grammatical form and clarity, without waiver of Applicant's traversal of the original claims.

Applicant's claim 1 defines a printing system with automatic error detecting and recovery having, in combination with other elements:

- an error detecting unit that detects a predetermined error during a print operation, the predetermined error defined as having a nature that the print operation is still performable even with the error occurring,

- a categorizing unit that categorizes the detected error based on the nature of the error,

- a setting unit arranged to set a print error recovery method for each of a plurality of error categories, the recovery methods including an automatic print continuation and a recovery method requiring user operation, with each error category including a respective plurality of errors,

- a memory that stores a correspondence data representing the set error recovery method for each category,

- a method detecting unit that detects, e.g., identifies or retrieves, an error recovery method based on the correspondence data, and

- an error recovery unit that executes the error recovery method identified by the method detecting unit.

Applicant's claim 5 defines a printing method including automatic error detecting and recovery having, in combination with other method elements:

- detecting a predetermined error occurring during the print operation, the predetermined error defined by the claim as an error where the print operation is performable even though the error occurred,

- categorizing the detected error into one of a plurality of error categories, based on the nature of the error,

- setting one print error recovery method from among different print recovery methods for each of the plurality of error categories, the print error recovery methods defined as including an automatic print continuation and a recovery by user's operation, wherein each of the print error categories includes a respective plurality of errors

- detecting, e.g., retrieving or identifying, an error recovery method set to correspond to the categorized error category,

- executing an error recovery procedure in accordance with the detected error recovery method

Turning to Applicant's specification and drawings, one illustrative example embodying the claim 1 setting unit is the error recovery method selection program 12b, as arranged within the printer controller 10, and connected to the user input device 30.

One illustrative example performing the claim 5 setting is disclosed in reference to Fig. 1 and Figs. 7-11. One illustrative example number of categories is four; the setting unit and setting receives user commands for each of the four error categories and, based on the commands, sets the error recovery method for each. *See* Specification at p. 9, line 10, through p. 11, line 2.

As described, since each category of errors includes a plurality of specific errors, the claimed invention provides setting the error recovery methods on a category-by-category basis - which requires substantially less user effort than required for setting the error recovery methods for each individual error. *See* Specification at p. 9, lines 10-21; and at p. 27, line 22, through p. 7, line 2.

According to the print system defined by claim 1 and print method defined by claim 5, the print operation is performable without change even if the predetermined error occurs. In other words, a user can select whether to continue the print operation when the predetermined error occurs.

Referring to Applicant's specification, in the example having four categories, the predetermined error is classified as one of "sheet size mismatch error", "font selection error", "device configuration mismatch error", and "user data error." Specification at p. 8, line 5, through p. 9, line 9. In the example, all of categories of "sheet size mismatch error", "font selection error", "device configuration mismatch error", and "user data error" indicate errors that occur when the data inputted into the printer does not correspond the data set in the printer. *Id.*

Applicant respectfully submits the Office Action's position that Hashimoto discloses the claim 1 setting unit and the corresponding claim 5 setting element, Office Action at p. 6, is not consistent with Hashimoto's disclosure.

Applicant respectfully submits that Hashimoto lacks subject matter meeting the limitations of the claim 1 setting unit, and lacks subject matter meeting the limitations of the claim 5 setting element, applying the broadest reasonable meaning to all of these limitations.

According to Hashimoto, a "paper discharge error" is classified into a "printing operation halting error," while a "running out of ink" error is classified into a "printing operation continuable error." Hashimoto at ¶ 0058.

However, Hashimoto's "paper discharge error" is not an error that occurs when the data inputted into the printer does not correspond to the data set on the printer.

Further, amended claims 1 and 5 define the predetermined error as an error such that the printing operation is performable even if the error occurs.

Hashimoto lacks these claim 1 and 5 limitation1 because, according to Hashimoto, the printing operation is performed in another image forming portion when the "printing operation halting error" occurs. Hashimoto, at ¶ 0048.

Further, amended claims 1 and 5 recite that the predetermined error has *a nature*, and the claims recite a categorizing unit (claim 1) or categorizing (claim 5) that categorizes the detected error into one of the plurality of categories based on the recited nature of the error, and still further recite each category as including *a plurality of the predetermined errors. See* claim 1, currently amended, at lines 7-10, and see claim 5, currently amended, at lines 8-10. See also, Specification at p. 7, line 22, through p. 9, line 9.

Hashimoto discloses nothing that is within the broadest reasonable meaning of these claim 1 and 5 limitations.

Hashimoto discloses nothing within the meaning of the claim 1 and 5 setting of an error recovery method for each of the categories, where each category includes a plurality of the predetermined errors.

Hashimoto therefore, for at least the reasons Applicant sets forth above, cannot anticipate claims 1 or 5 within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 102.

With respect to the rejections of claims 2 and 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 103, on the stated combination of Hashimoto and Official Notice, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims depend from claims 1 and 5, respectively, and are therefore patentable over this combination of cited teachings, for at least the reasons Applicant submits above.

Applicant respectfully submits that the stated combination of Hashimoto and Official Notice lacks elements of base claims 1 and 5, and fails to show objective evidence of obviousness of modifying their respective disclosures to achieve base claims 1 and 5.

The Office Action takes Official Notice on "input user interface" devices.

Applicant respectfully submits that Official Notice of an existence of user input devices for printers is not a teaching of, or toward the claim 1 setting unit or claim 5 setting operation. This is not a teaching of these elements because an existence of user input devices for printers does not constitute a teaching of, or toward, the claim 1 and 5 "error categories," in any arrangement, and does not constitute a teaching of, or toward, anything within the meaning of, or equivalent to, the claim 1 and 5 setting of one recovery method for each category and, therefore, for all errors included in each category.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Hashimoto and the "input devices" identified by Official Notice is not substantially closer to Applicant's claims 1 and 5 than is Hashimoto standing alone.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Hashimoto and the "input devices" identified by Official Notice does not show that modifying Hashimoto to achieve Applicant's claims 1 or 5 would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention.

Applicant, for the reasons presented above, respectfully requests the rejection of dependent claims 2 and 6 be reconsidered and withdrawn.

Applicant further, and additionally submits that dependent claims 2 and 6 recite automatic error recovery that proceeds to execute an automatic recovery,

displays the recovery being performed and, absent input from the user within a given time, stops the automatic recovery and skips the printing operation.

Hashimoto teaches *nothing* of or toward such a feature. Hashimoto teaches detecting an error, and presenting the user with one of two reports – the error requires manual intervention or the error recovery may be an automatic recovery. Hashimoto discloses that if the error recovery is automatic the system displays the automatic procedure that will be performed, along with any degradation in printing that will occur. If the user does nothing the automatic process proceeds. *See* Hashimoto at, for example, ¶ ¶ 0070 – 0073. This is opposite the feature of Applicant's claims 2 and 6.
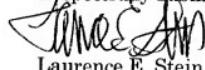
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the application with claims 1-6 be passed to issue.

A Petition for One-Month Extension of Time, extending the due date for responding to the Office Action from December 19, 2007 to January 19, 2008, with the required fee, is filed concurrently with this paper.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary in a telephonic or personal interview. Please charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Attorney's Deposit Account No. 50-2041.

Respectfully submitted,

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